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**Budget and Finance Committee approves the
Gaming Development Fund budget for FY2014**

TOHAJIILEE, N.M. – The Budget and Finance Committee on Tuesday, approved the Gaming Development Fund budget for FY2014 for approximately \$6.1 million, including one amendment. The original proposed budget amounted to approximately \$8 million.

The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, and Navajo Nation Gaming Regulatory Office recommended the following appropriations: \$566,000 to the development fund, \$1.9 million to NNGE, and \$5.6 million to the NNGRO.

“It takes a lot of resources to monitor and manage the [gaming] funds, and we request to keep the personnel line item as is [for gaming development],” said Controller Mark Grant. “And the line item for contractual services in the amount of \$469,000 for financial advisors, legal counsel, and feasibility studies as well.”

NNGRO is responsible for the daily operations and personnel for all gaming sites on the Navajo Nation, and will be allocated the majority of the funding in the amount of \$5.6 million.

“I see detailed budgets from OOC and NNGRO, but I do not see one for NNGE,” said BFC member Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock).

In response to Delegate Simpson’s concern, BFC chair LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’kaa, Upper Fruitland) stated that the NNGE appropriation would be used for operations and any new developments.

“It sounds like there is additional information that committee is going to need,” said BFC vice chair Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin). “NNGE needs to clarify what their budget will be used for.”

Delegate Simpson motioned to amend the legislation by deleting NNGE’s \$1.9 million budget, meaning that NNGE will have to submit a detailed budget proposal under a new legislation.

BFC members voted 3-0 to pass the amendment. The amendment does not impact the gaming development fund and NNGRO budget.

“Initially, I was against putting all this money into gaming,” said BFC member Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, Tse Ch’izhi). “At this point, they should already be self-sufficient and able to fund their own operations because we were told they were on their feet now.”

At the conclusion of the discussion, the BFC voted 3-0 to pass Legislation No. 0281-13 with one amendment.

The BFC initially considered and tabled the legislation on Sept. 23 to allow the OOC, NNGE, and NNGRO to further discuss and clarify the budget forms and line items.

BFC is the final authority for the legislation.

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